



## *The Massachusetts Land Initiative for Tomorrow*

### **2015 Community Engagement Coordinator Position Opening with Wildlands Trust**

The Massachusetts Land Initiative for Tomorrow (MassLIFT) AmeriCorps program was initiated and is managed by Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust as a collaborative effort of regional conservation organizations seeking to increase the pace of land protection across the Commonwealth. This year, 22 AmeriCorps members will serve in the MassLIFT program, helping their hosting organizations meet critical community needs for land protection, stewardship of protected lands, outreach to the broader community, and service learning opportunities to engage young people in conservation. To learn more about MassLIFT AmeriCorps visit [masslift.org](http://masslift.org).

**AmeriCorps** engages more than 75,000 men and women in intensive service each year through more than 15,000 nonprofits, schools, public agencies, and community and faith-based groups across the country. AmeriCorps members help communities tackle pressing problems and also leverage their service by mobilizing volunteers to help address community needs for environmental stewardship, health, education, economic opportunity, disaster services, and support to veterans and military families. To learn more about AmeriCorps visit [americorps.gov](http://americorps.gov).

MassLIFT-AmeriCorps is a grant program contingent upon renewal of federal funding from the Corporation of National and Community Service (CNCS). CNCS grants to AmeriCorps programs in Massachusetts are administered by the Massachusetts Service Alliance.

**The Massachusetts Service Alliance (MSA, [mass-service.org](http://mass-service.org))** is a private, nonprofit organization that serves as the state commission on community service and volunteerism. MSA's mission is to catalyze the innovation and growth of service and volunteerism by creating partnerships that maximize resources, expertise, capacity, and impact. MassLIFT is one of 22 AmeriCorps programs for which MSA currently administers funding and supports program implementation.

### **AmeriCorps Member Eligibility Requirements**

This year's MassLIFT program will run from September 8, 2015 through August 5, 2016. All MassLIFT-AmeriCorps members are expected to serve full-time, commit to serve for the entire eleven month term, and complete 1,700 hours of service. The 1,700 hours includes time spent in trainings and service with the full MassLIFT team. Weekly service averages 35 hours and commonly includes some night and/or weekend activities.

Applicants must also meet the following AmeriCorps requirements:

- a US citizen, US national, or Lawful Permanent Resident Alien of the U.S.
- at least 18-years-of-age

- a minimum of a high school diploma or GED
- no more than three previous terms as an AmeriCorps member
- pass a criminal history background check
- if serving primarily with vulnerable populations such as youth and the elderly, also pass an FBI check. (This requirement applies to MassLIFT Service Learning Coordinators.)

AmeriCorps programs provide equal employment opportunities. MassLIFT will recruit and select persons in all positions to ensure a diverse and inclusive climate without regard to race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, age, veteran status, color, political affiliation, creed, national origin, marital status, or any other status as protected by federal, state, and local laws. We encourage applications from individuals with disabilities and will provide reasonable accommodations for interviews and service upon request.

### **Member Compensation and Benefits:**

- MassLIFT-AmeriCorps members will receive a living allowance of \$12,530 over the 11 month term of service, or \$501.20 per 25 biweekly pay period.
- MassLIFT assists members in obtaining health insurance coverage through [healthcare.gov](http://healthcare.gov). Reimbursement of costs may be available.
- Childcare assistance may be provided in cases of financial need.
- Upon successful completion of the term of service, AmeriCorps members will receive a \$5,730 education award, which can be used for future education or to pay off existing school loans. See [edaward.org](http://edaward.org) for more info.
- Individuals in approved AmeriCorps positions are eligible for forbearance of most federally-guaranteed student loans.
- MassLIFT-AmeriCorps members gain skills in land conservation, attend a statewide conference, and participate in team trainings and other professional development opportunities.
- AmeriCorps members experience the personal rewards of national service and community engagement.

Note: MassLIFT-AmeriCorps members are responsible for their own housing and must have access to reliable transportation.

### **Positions**

The 2014 MassLIFT AmeriCorps program will support twenty-two full-time AmeriCorps members, serving in one of four positions: seven Land Stewardship Coordinators (LSC), five Regional Conservation Coordinators (RCC), six Community Engagement Coordinators (CEC), and four Service Learning Coordinators (SLC). The positions differ in their emphasis on land protection, stewardship, community outreach, and youth or adult education. All positions involve recruiting, teaching, and training community volunteers, conservation staff, and others to participate in and implement AmeriCorps members' projects.

Wildlands Trust will be hosting a Community Engagement Coordinator for the 2015-2016 service year. Information about MassLIFT positions hosted by other organizations is available on the Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust's "Join MassLIFT" website: [masslift.org](http://masslift.org).

## **2015 Community Engagement Coordinator Position Opening with Wildlands Trust**

### **Wildlands Trust**

675 Long Pond Road  
Plymouth, MA 02360  
[www.wildlandstrust.org](http://www.wildlandstrust.org)

We are one of the largest and oldest regional land trusts in Massachusetts, and since our founding in 1973, we have helped to ensure the protection of nearly 10,000 acres of natural and agricultural lands. We currently have 4 full-time and 4 part-time staff, as well as 3 MassLIFT AmeriCorps members carrying out the day-to-day activities of the Trust. We also have interns and volunteers who assist us on a regular basis. Our Board of Directors is comprised of 16 committed individuals from the communities we serve and we enjoy the support of nearly 1,200 members from around the region.

### **Community Engagement Coordinator**

MassLIFT Community Engagement Coordinators (CECs) help communities enhance and expand public support for land conservation by building the capacity of regional land trusts and partnered organizations to: 1) reach new audiences and establish new conservation partnerships; 2) offer programs that bring people outdoors to learn about and appreciate nature and the land; and 3) secure the resources and volunteers that they need for improving their conservation properties to better serve community recreation or nature education goals. CEC's work with volunteers to coordinate outreach events that attract diverse interests, and they identify opportunities to partner with non-conservation focused civic groups on community service projects with overlapping relevance for both groups. Examples of community service projects coordinated by CECs include, but are not limited to: 1) building community and/or food pantry gardens and recruiting volunteers to sustain the project; 2) organizing volunteers to revitalize public parks; 3) helping volunteer municipal boards plan recreational uses for community forests; 4) designing and maintaining recreational trails with community members; and 5) initiating urban greening projects in vacant lots with neighborhood groups.

MassLIFT AmeriCorps members work with their supervisors to develop and carryout six or more capacity building projects over the course of the service year. Many of these projects will involve recruiting, training, and managing community volunteers. Wildlands Trust has proposed the following projects for their Community Engagement Coordinator:

- 1) Lead and improve the Community Open Space Forum program.
- 2) Develop public outreach programs for the Community Conservation Hall at Davis-Douglas Farm.
- 3) Organize and lead the annual 5K for Conservation event.
- 4) Recruit, train, and engage volunteers.
- 5) Attend and promote Wildlands Trust at off-site outreach events (Farmers' Markets, volunteer fairs, etc.)
- 6) Manage social media and write/distribute monthly e-newsletters.

Development of these and other projects will occur during the first two months of service and consider the member's interests and skills.

Essential Qualifications:

- A BA/BS degree.
- A strong interest in working with community groups, landowners, and municipalities on land conservation projects.
- Comfortable presenting in front of groups.
- Strong writing, communication, and networking skills.
- Able to work both independently and as a member of a team.
- Familiarity with Microsoft Office programs.
- Own vehicle and ability to attend night/weekend events as needed.

Desired Qualifications:

- Experience recruiting, training, and managing volunteers.
- Experience in local government or civic organizations.
- Marketing experience or experience developing public information materials.
- Familiarity with land conservation in Massachusetts.
- Experience with service learning programs.
- Passionate about and strong commitment to conservation.
- Experience using social media (Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, etc.).

For questions about Wildlands Trust's service positions, contact Katie O'Donnell, Program Manager for Community Conservation, at [kodonnell@wildlandstrust.org](mailto:kodonnell@wildlandstrust.org).

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### **How to Apply**

Hosting organizations, service positions, and application procedures are described in the *Join MassLIFT* section of the MassLIFT-AmeriCorps website: [masslift.org](http://masslift.org).

The member application includes a completed application form, the names of three references, a resume, and a 1- 2 page cover letter. Download the application form from the *Join MassLIFT* website. Scan the completed form, resume, and cover letter into one PDF file and email this file to [admin@masslift.org](mailto:admin@masslift.org).

Member applications will be available for viewing by all of our host sites. Do not send applications directly to a host site.

We strongly encourage applications to be submitted before interviews begin in late May. Position offers and acceptances will begin in early June. The program aims to fill all positions by late July, but host sites may continue interviews as needed until all positions are filled. For questions about MassLIFT-AmeriCorps, contact Sean Pollock, Program Director, Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust, Athol, MA. w: 978-248-2043 x16; c: 413-522-3996 or email [admin@masslift.org](mailto:admin@masslift.org).